

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle telemetry system, comprising:

an on-vehicle telemetry module, adapted to receive information relating to operation of said vehicle; and

a computer server, remotely-located from said vehicle, adapted to receive said vehicle operation information from said telemetry module via wireless communication, and further adapted to provide said vehicle operation information to a plurality of users remotely-located from said computer server.
2. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said telemetry module is in electronic communication with a vehicle data bus, and wherein said telemetry module receives said operation information from said data bus.
3. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said computer server is capable of providing a selected portion of said vehicle operation information to at least one of said users, wherein said selected portion of said vehicle operation information is tailored to a request from said one of said users.
4. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle operation information is provided to said remotely-located users via a wide-area network.

5. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 4, wherein the wide-area network is the Internet.
6. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 5, wherein said users access said vehicle operation information using a Web browser.
7. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle operation information is provided to said users from said computer server via telephone communication lines.
8. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said vehicle operation information is provided to said users from said computer server via wireless communication.
9. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said computer server is adapted to provide said vehicle operation information to said users via an electronic device chosen from the following group: personal computer, personal digital assistant, and mobile phone.
10. The vehicle telemetry system of claim 1, wherein said computer server is further adapted to receive user-originated control commands relating to vehicle operation, and wherein said computer server is further adapted to

provide said user-originated control commands to said telemetry module via wireless communication.

11. A method for providing vehicle operation information to a plurality of users, comprising the steps:

receiving vehicle operation information from a remotely-located vehicle via wireless communication;

receiving requests for said vehicle operation information from a plurality of remotely-located users; and

providing access to said vehicle operation information to said remotely-located users.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein requests for said vehicle operation information includes at least one request from one of said users for a selected subset of said vehicle operation information, and wherein said step of providing access to said vehicle operation information comprises providing access only to said selected vehicle operation information subset to said one of said users.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said users are permitted to request different selected subsets of said vehicle operation information, and wherein said step of providing access to said vehicle operation information comprises providing

access to said selected subsets of vehicle operation information corresponding to said requests.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of charging each of said users a fee for said access to said vehicle operation information.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein said fee for each user is variably-determined based upon a system usage-level of said corresponding user.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said system usage-level is determined based upon an amount of vehicle operation information requested by said corresponding user.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein said system usage-level is determined based upon a type of vehicle information requested by said corresponding user.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein said system usage-level is determined based upon a number of times over a given time period that said user accesses said vehicle operation information.
19. The method of claim 11, wherein said access to said vehicle operation information is provided via a wide area network.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.
21. The method of claim 11, wherein access to said vehicle operation information is provided via a telephone communication line.
22. The method of claim 11, wherein, access to said vehicle operation information is provided via wireless communication.
23. The method of claim 11, wherein said vehicle operation information includes information relating to a performance characteristic of a vehicle component.
24. The method of claim 11, wherein said vehicle operation information includes information relating to a location of said vehicle.
25. A method of operating a vehicle telemetry system, comprising the steps:
 - causing a vehicle telemetry module to be installed on a vehicle,
 - wherein said vehicle is owned by a first entity;
 - receiving vehicle operation information from said telemetry module via wireless communication;
 - storing said vehicle operation information on a computer server remotely-located from said vehicle; and
 - providing access to said vehicle operation information stored on said computer server to a second entity.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of charging a fee to said second entity for said access to said vehicle operation information.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein said fee is related to a system-usage level corresponding to said second entity.
28. The method of claim 25, wherein said computer server is owned by a third entity.
29. The method of claim 25, wherein said computer server is maintained by a third entity.
30. The method of claim 25, wherein said second entity is remotely-located from said computer server.
31. The method of claim 25, wherein said second entity accesses said vehicle operation information via a wide area network.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

33. A method of operating a vehicle telemetry system, comprising the steps:
- causing a vehicle telemetry module to be installed on a vehicle;
 - establishing wireless communication between said vehicle telemetry module and a computer server remotely-located from said vehicle;
 - receiving a vehicle control command from a user who is remotely-located from said computer server; and
 - causing said computer server to transmit said vehicle control command to said vehicle telemetry module.
34. The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of charging a fee to said user for said transmission of said vehicle control command.
35. The method of claim 33, wherein:
- said vehicle is owned by a first entity;
 - said computer server is owned by a second entity; and
 - said user is a third entity.
36. The method of claim 33, wherein said user provides said vehicle control command to said computer server via a wide area network.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.